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U.S. Department of Agriculture.

1924 = A Few Facts About

STRAWBERRY PLANTS

as grown by

ALBERT H. PERRIGO

West Chester, Pa.

Varieties mentioned are all adapted
to South-eastern Pennsylvania, New
Jersey, Delaware and Maryland.

If you are not personally interested,
please hand this to a friend. I will
appreciate the courtesy and probably
he will also.

OUTLOOK FOR 1924

While the very dry season of 1923 was a disappointment to growers of strawberries, still it was not such a bad year after all. The outlook for 1924 is very promising and I believe there will be a large planting this year. When setbacks occur it is a good time to plunge. My advice is to plant all you can safely take care of. Buy early and wisely.

Raising strawberries is a business that requires little capital. It is pleasing, fascinating and highly profitable. Southeastern Pennsylvania has the ideal soil, climate and other requirements to grow all kinds of small fruits. There is no reason why they should not be grown and shipped in car lots at a great financial gain to the growers. Under the present conditions we do not grow enough to supply our home market. Farmers and land owners, investigate this subject and then try and get your share of this profitable business.

My plants this year are just as fine as can be grown; all from young beds and true to name. I do not dig from old beds, as I make it a practice to plow all fields as soon as the picking season is over. This method insures a crop of big, healthy, strong plants, so that when I deliver an order I make a friend.

MAKING FRIENDS

I feel that I have a good many friends throughout the State, and believe every order I send out goes to a friend and every new order means a new friend. It may be profitable for some growers to dig their old beds, but I prefer less profits and more friends.

I sort, tie and label all my plants in the field as fast as they are dug and as soon as a bunch is tied and labeled it is healed in. The

plants are, therefore, never exposed to sun and wind for long, and when carefully packed they arrive in perfect condition. I tried taking the plants to the packing shed, but found they dried out too much and it was hard to keep out the culs. The many splendid testimonials I receive shows that my customers appreciate this extra effort and also the fact that most of them come back year after year goes to prove it.

VARIETIES

I am not growing every variety on the market, but restricting my plantings to the varieties that I have tried and found to be successful in this section.

TRIAL GROUNDS

I have established a trial field in which I plant every variety I have, and each year secure a few new ones. They are all planted the same day, have the same treatment as regards to cultivation and fertilization, and as accurate a record as possible made of yields. I am doing this in the perhaps vain effort, to find the one best berry. Anyway it is mighty interesting and I trust will be of great benefit to my customers as well as myself.

PRICES

Our price are as reasonable as one should expect and at the same time get good plants, properly grown, well dug and shipped promptly.

In no article of merchandise does quality count more than in plants. The first cost, even though many times higher than we quote, is trifling compared to the labor and expense put upon them afterwards. Good plants cannot be sold below a certain rate. Our prices are based upon cost of production and not on the price the other fellow charges. I have re-

duced prices some this year, but it is impossible to make much of a reduction. Labor was higher last year than ever, and it seemed, at times, not nearly as efficient.

I am in a position to grow plants cheaper than most growers. With the grand Chester loam to grow them in, I am practically assured of having a good crop every year. Further, I have very little of the so-called overhead. I supervise every part of it and do a lot of other work as well, and yet my profits are very small.

STRAWBERRIES

Premier. I must give **Premier** the first place this year. If a trial patch is of any use at all, **Premier** surely did earn first place. It was the earliest of all and the largest producer by double that of any other variety and that is going some. Just stop and think what two to one means, for that is what **Premier** did in 1923. All during the picking season, it was plain to all that **Premier** was going to come out ahead and when totals were compared, **Premier** gave just double that of any other variety. The berries were beautiful, a deep red, glossy, large to very large, and, in fact, everything to be desired in a perfect strawberry. Some other variety may equal or even beat **Premier** in 1924, but I doubt it.

If you raise strawberries for pleasure or profit, you can't go wrong if you plant **Premier**. It will stand most any amount of fertilizing and will also do well on moderately rich soil. It is extremely hardy and late frosts do not seem to effect it in the least. In fact, **Premier** has all the good qualities of most other berries and none of their faults. Wish I had planted more of them for 1924. I have a good stand of plants for this season, but expect to be sold out long before the planting season ends. Better get an order in early.

100, \$1.25; 500, \$5.00; 1,000, \$9.00

Big Joe. According to the returns from the trial patch, will have to give **Big Joe** second place this year, although honors were about evenly divided between **Big Joe** and **Gibson**. Both suffered considerably on account of the severe drought and both being later than **Premier** accounts somewhat for **Premier's** big lead. Anyway, **Big Joe** is a good mid-season berry to grow as it is a very hardy plant and the fruit is all that could be desired, both in looks and flavor, and is a good shipper. The longer I grow **Big Joe**, the better I like it.

100, \$1.00; 500, \$4.00; 1,000, \$7.00

Gibson. This variety is still one of my favorites and just because it fell behind last year in the trial patch is no good reason to go back on it now. **Gibson** being a late variety and as not a drop of rain fell from the time it blossomed until the season was over, **Gibson** had a very good crop. As a preserving berry it cannot be equalled, and as a money maker, is right alongside of **Premier**, that is, take them year after year. **Gibson** is a good, safe variety to plant as a commercial proposition.

100, \$1.00; 500, \$3.50; 1,000, \$6.00

Chesapeake. Here we have what is probably the one best berry for the fancy trade. Berries are large, regular in shape, glossy and attractive in every way. With high culture upon loam or clay loam this berry is simply wonderful. However, unless you can give it the proper attention and plant on the right soil, better plant **Big Joe** or some other variety. On the other hand if you can grow them on the right kind of soil with high culture, you are on the road to prosperity, for they will out-sell most other varieties from five to ten cents a quart. Not as good a variety for preserving as the **Gibson**, but a far better market berry. They sell at sight.

Price—100, \$1.50; 500, \$6.00; 1,000, \$10.00

Wm. Belt. This variety takes the lead whenever quality is the consideration. The plant is vigorous, though not a rampant grower, succeeds on most all soils, invariably yields heavily. Berries are large and of high quality. Flesh is solid and deep crimson color with abundance of pollen. It begins to ripen quite early and continues until almost the close of the season; the very last berries being large handsome and full-flavored. Many of the berries are of great size, and gives large pickings for a longer period than almost any other variety. Ideal berry for home garden and nearby market.

Price—100, \$1.00; 500, \$4.00; 1,000, \$7.00

Lupton. One of the largest and most handsome berries I have ever seen. It is productive, uniformly large, bright red in color and very attractive. While they are not the highest quality, they will sell on the market when other berries go begging. On the large markets appearance is practically everything, therefore the **Lupton** by reason of its large size, handsome appearance, and excellent shipping qualities, is one of the best money making berries that I list. **Lupton** is often taken for Chesapeake, and while the quality is not as good, will sell equally well. It is much easier to grow and will far outyield Chesapeake. If you want to ship fancy berries and be sure of their standing up on the market, try **Lupton**.

100, \$1.00; 500, \$3.50; 1,000, \$6.00

Cooper. A new mid-season variety, which I have not fruited but which is very highly recommended by both the originator and introducer. Am trying it out in the experimental patch and can tell you something as to how it stands next year. I hear so many kind words spoken of it by reliable growers that I do not hesitate to recommend a trial. It certainly

made a wonderful growth and is well worthy of a try-out.

50, 75c; 100, \$1.25

Bun Special. Another new late variety which I am trying out. It is a strong, healthy grower and a splendid plant maker. One of my customers fruited it last season and the berries were large, a brilliant dark red and good quality. It sets a large crop of fruit and is worthy of a trial.

50, 75c; 100, \$1.25

EVER-BEARING VARIETIES

Any of my **Ever-Bearing Strawberries** set this spring, as early as possible, will bear a crop of delicious berries this year and will commence fruiting in a few weeks after plants are set. If ground is rich and moist they can be allowed to commence fruiting about July 15th, and will fruit right up to the time winter sets in. For the home garden they will be the best investment you can make and will give the whole family great satisfaction and pleasure. I am not recommending ever-bearing strawberries as a commercial proposition as yet; possibly in time they may pay commercially. For the home garden they are too good a proposition to be overlooked.

Progressive. The most vigorous growing plant of all the fall bearing strawberries and is the only one that will do much of anything this far south. The berries are produced in great abundance and have a flavor equal to the wild strawberries you used to gather or have heard your parents praise. It is also the earliest berry in the spring and bears a very good crop then.

The berries are not quite so large as some of the others, but are produced in great quantities, and if picked often, say every three days, will stand shipment. While the Progressive is not quite so large as some, it grows better,

yields more and is of better quality than any variety I have tried. If you like strawberries you will get a lot of pleasure and profit out of a plot of Progressives.

Price—50, \$1.00; 100, \$1.50; 500, \$7.00

Champion. A new variety recently introduced that I have grown only one year. I find it almost identical with the Progressive, possibly sets a little more and a little larger fruit. It is a prolific bearer of very fine berries and a splendid plant maker.

Same price as Progressive.

CURRENTS AND GRAPES

Anyone having a plot of ground ever so small, either in country or city, can find room for from six to twelve grape and currant vines. And how much more delicious the fruit is when it is grown and picked by your own hands.

My vines and plants this season are large; well rooted and fine in every way.

GRAPES

Plant in rows eight to ten feet apart and ten feet apart in the rows. For garden culture it is customary to plant much closer, according to the room you have. Grapes like a warm, loose, well drained soil and southern exposure. Set a few inches deeper than they were grown in the nursery. At planting time, cut back to three or four buds and allow only two or three of the strongest ones to grow. The second year these canes should be cut back to the same eyes or buds as at first. This pruning is to delay bearing and get a strong, well established plant. Allow only the two strongest canes to grow and these canes should be trained to the lower wire of the trellis. From these arms each succeeding year, canes are allowed to grow to bear the season's fruit. The following winter these old canes

are cut back to two or three buds and only the strongest ones allowed to grow from each joint.

In grape trimming, bear in mind that the fruit is borne at the base of this year's shoots that come from wood formed last year. Applying this principle, you can train a grape to a stake or any other method you favor the most.

CACO

It sells itself.

It is the most beautiful of all grapes.

It is the most delicious of all grapes.

It is the strongest grower we have ever seen and is proving to be the most profitable commercial variety.

It is wine red, with abundant bloom; the berries are very large, bunches medium in size, compact and of good form. Ripens almost with Concord, possibly a few days earlier; but it is so rich in sugar it is excellent in flavor fully two weeks before being ripe. It was the only variety (out of 12) on our grounds that set and matured a full crop during the season of 1921. Not an imperfect berry and every bunch a saleable one. If you raise grapes, either commercially or for home use, you cannot afford to be without this wonderful variety.

Here is a statement by one who knows, no less a person than Prof. J. H. Gourley, of the Ohio Experiment Station. Professor Gourley is well and favorably known among grape growers as an authority on the subject of grape varieties:—

“Unlike the case with other fruits, there is not a long list of almost equally good varieties from which to select when one is contemplating a commercial vineyard. To be sure there is a long list of very good varieties but only a few have stood the test of time for market grapes.

"Of the new or less known ones much can be said, for surely there are several of distinct merit. Without attempting to name them in any order of preference or origin, the following may be mentioned: Caco is a new one that has been on the market for a little more than 10 years. The writer has observed it for three seasons in a vineyard of over 200 varieties and from its behavior at Wooster, Ohio, it will rank as one of the best. It is a good grower; hardy; prolific; produces compact, well-formed and medium-sized bunches; color is a light amber red covered with abundant bloom, which gives it a rather dull, waxy appearance. The quality is excellent, sweet, rich, aromatic; flesh tender and it lacks any foxy or musky flavor, which is offensive to some persons. It is worthy of planting for home use or a fancy market. It ripens after mid-season and remains on the vines in good condition late into the season."

One other, and a big feature is, that Caco is practically immune from black rot.

1-Year, 50c; 1 Dozen, \$4.00

2-Year, 75c; 1 Dozen, \$6.00; 100, \$40.00

NIAGARA

The popular white grape. Cluster large and compact; berry large, thin skinned, tender pulp, sweet and luscious. Ripens with Concord.

1 Year, 25c; 1 Dozen, \$2.00

2 Year, 35c; 1 Dozen, \$3.00

CONCORD

The great American grape. Succeeds everywhere; known by everybody and needs no recommendation.

1 Year, 25c; 1 Dozen, \$2.00

DIAMOND

A reliable white grape. Bunch large, berry large, greenish white, juicy and of splendid quality. Everyone should have at least one vine of this variety.

1 Year, 25c; 1 Dozen, \$2.00

2 Year, 35c; 1 Dozen, \$3.00

CAMPBELL'S EARLY

A superb black grape; berries large; covered with rich bloom; quality about the same as Concord; vine a strong, healthy grower and a good bearer. Profitable for market on account of its earliness.

1 Year, 25c; 1 Dozen, \$2.00

2 Year, 35c; 1 Dozen, \$3.00

IDEAL

Is the sweetest of all black grapes. The clusters are invariably very compact and fair size. Vine healthy and prolific. So far have found it hard to propagate and my supply of vines is therefore limited.

2 Year, 50c; 1 Dozen, \$3.50

AGAWAN

Deep red or maroon. Large, loose bunch, berries large. Meaty, with rich aromatic flavor. Ripens after Concord.

1 Year, 25c; 1 Dozen, \$ 2.00

BRIGHTON

Cheerful red, bunch large, berry medium to large and a rich refined flavor.

.1 Year, 25c; 1 Dozen, \$2.00

CURRANTS

The currant requires a moist, rich soil to be able to do its best. In this locality it should be planted on a north slope and partial shade.

is a great help. Put a couple of forksful of good stable manure around each plant in the fall. Old leaves to the depth of a foot over the field will be a big help. This can be supplanted in the spring by a commerical fertilizer of about 6-8-10. Wood ashes are also good. Plant in rows six to seven feet apart and four feet apart in the rows for commerical planting. For gardens four feet each way is about right. The currant is growing in popularity fast. More of this fruit is being used each year and it is well that it is, for the currant has, probably, more health giving qualities than any fruit grown. No family should be without a few plants and as a commerical proposition they are well up toward the head of the list!

BOSKOOP GIANT

By far the largest and best of the black varieties.. The fruit is very large, often more than an inch in diameter. Is a strong grower and bears a good crop every year.

1 Year, 25c; 1 Dozen, \$2.50

2 Year, 35c; 1 Dozen, \$4.00

EVERYBODY'S

Named Everybody's because everybody can grow it with success. Bunch and berry of large size; color bright sparkling red and of excellent quality. It is a big yielder and the currant to grow for market, and is equally good for home garden.

1 Year, 25c; 1 Dozen, \$2.00; 100, \$12.00

2 Year, 35c; 1 Dozen, \$3.50

PRESIDENT WILDER

A strong and very upright growing variety that produces big crops of brilliant red and extra large fruit. I have fruited this currant for several years and find it the most satisfactory variety. A grand commerical currant.

1 Year, 25c; 1 Dozen, \$2.50; 100, \$12.00
2 Year, 35c; 1 Dozen, \$3.25; 100, \$20.00

DIPLOMA

Probably the largest and best flavored red currant so far introduced. Ripens in mid-summer, but if not picked will hang on the bushes for weeks in good condition. A grand currant for the home garden and a profitable commerical variety, for the reason that it can be marketed long after all others are gone. It was the only variety on our grounds that withstood the late spring freeze in 1921, and bore a partial crop when all others failed. It also brings a better price on the market for it sells at sight and is soon sold while others wait.

1 Year, 25c; 1 Dozen, \$2.50. 100, \$15.00
2 Year, 35s; 1 Dozen, \$3.50

FAY'S PROLIFIC

A vigorous growing bush, enormously productive, with fruit of very large size. Very popular and inclined to do better than other varieties on light soils.

1 Year, 25c; 1 Dozen, \$2.00; 100, \$10.00

RASPBERRIES

I have a few thousand raspberry plants left which must be closed out this spring. Am making an attractive price on them which should clean up the lot in short order.

VICTORY, RED RASPBERRIES

A grand variety and one that does not winter kill in this latitude.

Sucker plants, 1 Dozen 75c; 100, \$3.00

HONEY SWEET and PLUM FARMER

Black raspberries. These are both standard varieties and have proved satisfactory as producers.

1 Dozen, 75c; 100, \$2.50

WHITE GRUBS

The White Grub is about the most serious pest the strawberry grower has to contend with. Of late years I have plowed all my fields for the next years planting in the fall. Usually about October 20 to November 5. I leave the ground alone until spring, and if necessary, plow again then. If the ground is very dry, all the better, as then the old roots of grass or weeds die and dry up and the grubs starve to death. Of course, the birds and fowls get some, but only a small portion in comparison to the number you starve to death. I have not lost a plant by grubs since I adopted this method.

SERVICE

Service is what I aim to give as well as good plants. If you are in doubt as to any particular point do not hesitate to ask. I have helped many of my customers and I am at your service at any and all times.

VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME

I wish it were possible for everyone who intends to buy plants this year to come and inspect my grounds in person. I am quite proud of my efforts and invite everyone to come and be shown over the place at any time. Visitors are always welcome.

ORDER BY PARCEL POST, C. O. D.

I advise that customers have their parcel post packages sent C. O. D. for the amount of the postage. This not only fixes matters so that you pay just the actual postage, but it practically insures your package from loss in the mails, because your postmaster cannot collect the postage unless he delivers the package.

The cost is 10 cents for the C. O. D. and 3 cents for returning the money to us. It is

a safe thing to do as hundreds of packages are lost from the mails every year.

If our patrons are short of money when they send in their orders, they can send one-fourth of the total amount with the order and we will send plants C. O. D. for the balance and cost of postage.

IMPORTANT

We all make mistakes. Especially during the rush of a busy shipping season. If anything is wrong about your order, write fairly and decently about it and we will see that it is adjusted. We do not agree to replace plants that die unless it can be proven we are at fault.

DO NOT REFUSE A SHIPMENT, but take it and DO the very best you can. Then let us know all about it and we will do everything in our power to make things right.

Satisfied customers are the only kind we want and are the only kind worth having.

My Method of Raising Strawberries.

I plow the ground in the Fall as deep as possible, say nine or ten inches, putting on from ten to twelve tons of good stable manure to the acre. Disc or cultivate the ground in the Spring and broadcast commercial fertilizer, a 6 8-10, at the rate of 600 pounds to the acre.

I use the hedge row system entirely. Have tried the matted row and single hill, but am thoroughly satisfied that I get best results from hedge row methods.

I make rows thirty inches apart and plants fifteen to eighteen inches apart in the row, then

allow two runners to set from each plant. Keep off all runners until after August first.

I do not get quite as many berries from this system, but there are no culls the first three or four pickings; every berry a first class berry. I also get every berry, which cannot be done in the matted row.

I mulch with wheat straw from 2 to 4 inches deep. Some of my neighbors think I put on too much mulch, but I do not think so, from the fact that a clean crop results. Leave the mulch on as long as possible, or until the plants begin to bleach, that is the late crop. Remove mulch from Premier early. Take off enough to let the plants come through putting it between the hills. This leaves about six inches in the row and means plenty of moisture, clean berries, pleasant surroundings for the pickers and no weeds

I plow all fields as soon as crop is picked and sow to soy beans or alfalfa.

I put on a fertilizer before the mulch is removed of about 10-8-10. This may be a little heavy, but so far have had no bad results and believe a little extra fertilizer pays and especially when you can count returns from \$800 to \$1200 an acre. Further, the fertilizer is in the soil and the next crop will benefit by it.

Start cultivating the day the plants are set and keep it up until frost comes.

Do not neglect to fit plants before planting. Pick or cut off all old leaves, leaving one or two young ones. Cut off one third of long roots, leaving about four inches and see that the roots are set straight up and down in the soil. Have crowns as near level as possible with the top of the soil.